Amendments to the Claims:

1-31. (canceled)

32. (currently amended) ~~The~~An isolated nucleic acid ~~of Claim 28~~ having at least 99% nucleic acid sequence identity to[[:]]

~~(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 110 (SEQ ID NO:196);~~

~~(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 110 (SEQ ID NO:196), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 110 (SEQ ID NO:196);~~

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 110 (SEQ ID NO:196), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e)~~ the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 109 (SEQ ID NO:195)[[;]],

~~(f) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 109 (SEQ ID NO:195); or~~

~~(g) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203231,~~

wherein the nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide having fetal hemoglobin inducing activity.

33. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising[[:]]

~~(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 110 (SEQ ID NO:196);~~

~~(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide shown in Figure 110 (SEQ ID NO:196), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 110 (SEQ ID NO:196);~~

~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 110 (SEQ ID NO:196), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

~~(e)~~ the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 109 (SEQ ID NO:195)[[;]].

~~(f) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 109 (SEQ ID NO:195); or~~

~~(g) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203231.~~

34. (canceled)

35. (canceled)

36. (canceled)

37. (canceled)

38. (currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 33 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:195~~shown in Figure 109 (SEQ ID NO:195)~~.

39. (canceled)

40. (canceled)

41. (canceled)

42. (canceled)

43. (canceled)

44. (currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 32 or 48~~28~~.

45. (previously presented) The vector of Claim 44, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

46. (previously presented) A host cell comprising the vector of Claim 44.

47. (previously presented) The host cell of Claim 46, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.

48. (new) An isolated nucleic acid having at least 99% nucleic acid sequence identity to the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 109 (SEQ ID NO:195), wherein the nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that induces chondrocyte re-differentiation.